

N. I.

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Dear Sirs:
Ref your recent letter
concerning Medical Officer
of health's report, I regret to
say that owing to Dr Gwynne's
departure for active service
the usual annual report



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It does not appear to have
been made. I shall
bear in mind your
communication in making
the report for the present
year & shall be pleased
to send you a copy.

I remain

Yours faithfully

W. J. Hicks M.B.

To Dr L. H. Quason

4/6/18

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1917.

*To the Mayor, and Members of the Wisbech Urban
District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I again have the privilege of submitting to you an abbreviated report of the Sanitary Conditions existing in the Urban District of Wisbech, during the past twelve months, and ending December 31st, 1917. During the year the health of the town has been good, whilst the prevalence of infectious illnesses, have not again been so numerous as in previous years, the only outbreak of disease of a serious nature, was with Diphtheria, of these cases, several were among children, attending the Elm Road School, in consequence of which an inquiry in consultation with the County Medical Officer of Health was held, and with the result, that some improvements were made with the existing Sanitary arrangements, although I regret that sufficient was not done to meet with my entire satisfaction. It is gratifying however to know, that out of the 17 cases reported to me, no less than 16 of these were treated at the Isolation Hospital, some of the cases were very severe, and two deaths resulted from this disease.

You will remember the serious outbreak of Enteric Fever with which we had to deal, in the last two months of the previous year, and in the early months of this year, when 7 other cases were reported, but obvious improvements rapidly showed themselves, through the measures for staying the outbreak of this disease, you so vigorously adopted, of these cases 6 were treated in the Isolation Hospital, showing the enormous good resulting from having satisfactory accommodation to enable us to treat these cases, away from their homes, and the surrounding districts.

Measles, of a mild type, was somewhat prevalent, there were 25 cases notified, of which cases 4 were treated at the Hospital, whilst there were 2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 6 of Erysipelas, and 6 of Scarlet Fever, and of the latter, 2 cases were removed to the Hospital.

Again I have to report, that a large number of invalided Soldiers are being treated in the district, and also a large number come home on furlough, but no case of infectious illness has arisen amongst these.

Owing to the conditions prevailing, due to the War, under the Housing and Town Planning Act, only a limited number of unsanitary dwellings, have been dealt with, with these however many improvements have been carried out, and injurious conditions remedied. The inspection of Workshops, Bakehouses, Slaughterhouses and Factories, has disclosed no serious unsanitary conditions, which is gratifying, especially, now that such large quantities of Jam, fruit, and other food-stuffs are made here.

In respect of Births :—

The number of births was 150, which is a large falling off from the previous year, of these 72 were males, 58 Females, and illegitimate 7 males and 13 Females, giving a Birth Rate of 13·4 per 1,000 of the population, compared with an 18·9 birth rate last year.

In respect of Deaths :—

The number of deaths, from all causes was 180, but in this number are included 40 outward deaths, or deaths of persons, who do not belong to this district, leaving a nett number of deaths of 140, together with 7 inward deaths, of persons belonging to the district but who have died whilst away, and giving a death rate of 14·2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, amongst these deaths are included the deaths of 8 infant children, giving a death rate of 53·3 per 1,000, of the nett births.

The deaths under 1 year were	8
Between 1 year and 5 years	9
„ 5 years and 15 years	5
„ 15 „ 25 „	7
„ 25 „ 65 „	42
Over 65 years	69

Of these deaths, Consumption, or Tuberculosis diseases found 14 victims, a very much fewer number however than in the previous year, when there were 27, Cancerous affections 21, Heart disease 10, and other diseases of the Respiratory organs, 19 deaths.

I remain Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

HARRY GROOM, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

